

NEWS RELEASE

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Kempthorne Taps National Lab Director to Chair Science & Tech Council



John Grossenbacher

(BOISE) – Gov. Dirk Kempthorne today announced Idaho National Lab Director John Grossenbacher will serve as the new chairman of the Governor’s Science & Technology Advisory Council.

Grossenbacher, a former vice admiral in the United States Navy, replaces Dr. Bill Shipp, the former director of the Idaho National Laboratory, who has chaired the council since it was formed in 1999.

“Idaho is extremely fortunate to have someone of Director Grossenbacher’s caliber chairing the Science & Technology Advisory Council,” Kempthorne said. “His distinguished naval career and position as director of one of the nation’s premier laboratories gives me great confidence that his efforts with the council will position Idaho as a leader in science and technology.”

Kempthorne added that the State of Idaho owes a debt of gratitude to departing Chairman Shipp.

“Dr. Shipp built the foundation and provided the direction we needed to continue growing Idaho’s science and technology industry,” Kempthorne said. “We wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Prior to his position as director of the lab, Grossenbacher was senior vice president of nuclear science and technology at Battelle. He was named the lab’s new director following the Department of Energy’s decision in November granting the Battelle Energy Alliance a 10-year, \$4.8 billion contract to manage and operate the eastern Idaho facility.

Grossenbacher joined Battelle following his retirement from the Navy after a 23-year career. At the time of his retirement, he was commander of all U.S. submarine forces. He was the first Navy admiral to direct both the Atlantic and Pacific submarine forces. As commander, he led 25,000 military and civilian staff members and managed a \$10 billion operating budget.

He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and received a Master of Arts in International Economics and International Relations from Johns Hopkins University. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of Business.

“I’m honored that Governor Kempthorne has asked me to help lead the effort to advance the science and technology interests of the state,” Grossenbacher said. “Collaboration among government, industry and academia – as exemplified by this council – is key to the growth of Idaho’s high-tech economy and the success of the Idaho National Laboratory.”

Grossenbacher will chair the 15-member council made up of industry leaders, university presidents and government officials. The council meets twice a year and is charged with implementing measures to expand Idaho’s science and technology industry. The council also makes recommendations to the Governor and oversees the efforts of Idaho Commerce & Labor’s Office of Science & Technology.

“We welcome the opportunity to work with Director Grossenbacher,” said Karl Tueller, executive director of the Office of Science & Technology. “The Idaho National Laboratory is a vital part of the state’s high-technology industry and we look forward to his suggestions on how we can better focus our efforts to enhance Idaho’s reputation as a state of innovation and ideas.”

In addition to Grossenbacher’s appointment as chairman of the council, Kempthorne also named two additional members to the council – Jason Crawforth, chief executive officer of Boise-based Treetop Technologies, and Robin Woods, president of Moscow-based Alturas Analytics.

Crawforth, an Idaho native and 1992 graduate of University of Idaho, founded Treetop Technologies in 1997, a software support and development company. The company has grown from two employees to a workforce of more than 100 information technology specialists and currently generates \$10 million in revenues.

Woods started Alturas Analytics, a pharmaceutical testing laboratory, in 2000 with partners Mike Pearson and Shane Needham. Woods also serves as president of the Latah Economic Development Council. She graduated from Washington State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in biology/genetics and returned to WSU in 1993 to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

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